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Regents Respond Quickly to Computer Data Glitch

The Louisiana Board of Regents was recently informed that some staff computer reports containing personal information were potentially accessible through external internet access. Within a few hours of notification, the Board of Regents was able to correct the problem. The agency also contacted the Attorney General's office and the Division of Administration to report the situation.

"We are thankful that WDSU-TV and reporter Richard Angelico brought this situation to our attention," said Louisiana Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. "We quickly isolated the information in question from external access and have taken extensive measures to ensure that the information is not accessible in any form. Although we are aware of no misuse of non-public information, we are working with the Attorney General's office to fully investigate this matter and take any appropriate action. No mission-critical data related to the Board of Regents or Louisiana's public colleges and universities were compromised."

While the Board of Regents continues to determine the extent of the data exposure, it does know that the data was accessible by means of an advanced, targeted, multi-level Internet search.

"The Board of Regents is working to notify the potentially affected people and has set up a web site to advise them of ways to protect their privacy," said Savoie. He added that the Board of Regents is conducting an internal investigation and is implementing enhanced IT security mechanisms to ensure that there are no similar occurrences in the future.

While the Board of Regents has no reason to believe that any personal information has been accessed for malicious purposes, the agency urges anyone who falls into the following categories to log on to <http://notice.regents.state.la.us> to learn what steps can be taken to minimize the possibility of identity theft:

- Any student who was enrolled in the 10th grade at a Louisiana public high school and took the EPAS (Educational Planning and Assessment) *Plan* test between 2001 and 2003.
- Any Louisiana public college or university faculty or staff member who was employed in either 2000 or 2001.